

Report Card for Bylong River Water Source FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Water Source Context		River Flows
<p>Area: 697.5 km² (63% forested) Average Annual Rainfall 682 mm Inflowing water source: Nil Receiving water source: Upper Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, Hunter River Regulated System, Hunter River Tidal Pool</p>		<p>Low flow Index: (80thile in December of days with flow) = 0.3 ML/day Flow records: 1969 to 1981 (12 yrs) This estimate is based on flows measured at Bylong River at Bylong No2 (210062) adjusted for longer term climate.</p>
Licensed Water use		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total surface water entitlement: 5203 ML/year (100% used for irrigation purposes) • 2 surface water licenses - Peak Daily Demand=1.4 ML/day • Total groundwater entitlement: 5843 ML/year (100% used for irrigation purposes) • 23 groundwater licences • 20.29 % of total Goulburn Extraction Management Unit entitlement 		
Background information		
Water Source attributes	Rating	Justification
Relative Instream Value (within catchment)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 threatened amphibian species • moderate fish community integrity, • drought refuge for water plants and animals • the ecology value of the river for invertebrates is deemed to be moderate
Hydrological Stress	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peak extraction demand exceeds available flows in December
Relative Economic Significance of Irrigation (within catchment)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium economic dependence of the local community on water extracted for irrigation
Risk to Instream Value (from extraction)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instream values are at low risk of being impacted by extractions within the water source
Existing Access Arrangements During Dry Conditions		
Water User Association (WUA)	yes - Bylong Valley WUA	
Licensed Cease to Pump (CtP)	none	

Proposed Recommendations for Bylong River Water Source

Draft Access Rules	
Cease to Pump (CtP)	Groundwater trigger to be determined by year ten
Reference Point	To be defined by year ten

Draft Trading Rules	
INTO water source	Currently no trading into or out of the water source permitted. The plan also allows amendment of rules to allow downstream transfers between water sources in Goulburn Extraction Management Unit based on studies to identify cumulative impacts of transfers, and the staged introduction of no net transfers as management systems become available.
WITHIN water source	Trading permitted within the water source but no transfers into specified groundwater buffer zones.
Conversion to High Flow Access Licence	Not permitted
Conversion to Aquifer Access Licence	Not permitted

Key Factors for Panel Decision

Classification

- Highly connected stream type
- Low instream values, high hydrological stress, low risk to instream values, medium economic dependence
- The Regional Panel revised the level of economic dependence from low to medium to reflect the relatively large amount of groundwater extraction that occurs in this water source.

Rules

- Staged introduction of the trading and access rules identified through classification process.

Matters raised during targeted consultation

Based on submissions received from water users the Regional Panel has proposed a number of amendments to the local impact management rules within the draft plan. These relate to:

1. Application of the local impact rules to all new and replacement bores - amended to indicate that if the extraction from the replacement work does not increase the rules will not apply if the work is located within a specified distance from the previous work.
2. Restriction on new or replacement works in or near rivers/creeks - amended to indicate that if it can be demonstrated that the placement of the work will not have an impact on the river environment or river stability than the buffer distances do not apply.
3. Application of the buffer distances to spearpoints - now includes a proposed provision that the buffer distances do not apply to works held by the same individual. This means that the individual works within a spearpoint battery do not incur the buffer distances.

Aboriginal Cultural Values

- The initial consultation with local Aboriginal communities indicate that they consider healthy rivers with natural flows and good biodiversity as being important. Further feedback is being sought from Aboriginal communities about values in their area.

For more information about the macro planning process for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources refer to the "Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources – Background Document" on the Department's website:

www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

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